

# CHS CHECKUP



A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

March 5, 2001

## NEWS BRIEFS

### WALKAMERICA 2001 SET

CHS employees will once again be taking part in the March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2001. Gwen Mayes, executive director of the Office of Women's Physical and Mental Health, is coordinating this effort for the cabinet. Her number is 564-9358. The cabinet goal is to raise \$5,380. Department and office team captains will coordinate events.

The state government walk in Frankfort will be Friday, April 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Another walk in Frankfort will be held April 7. Watch the newsletter for more details.



TIP OF  
THE  
WEEK

There is no mistaking the signs of chapping. The painful slits and cracks that are very slow to heal. The lips, the whole face, the hands, and sometimes heels and other body parts may be affected. The basic cause of chapping is a drying out of the uppermost layer of the skin. Precipitating factors include soaps and detergents, dry indoor air, and exposure to cold, windy weather.

Prevention and cure call for the same measures. Outdoors, it is a good idea to protect the face with a muffler. Indoors, the air can be moistened. You should gently pat your skin to dry it after washing, and use emollient creams or lotions liberally and regularly to soften and moisturize the skin.

## Helton To Leave Health Services

CHS Secretary Jimmy D. Helton will be leaving state government effective March 15.

Helton, who was appointed secretary in September of 1999, was joined by Gov. Paul Patton and other executive branch officials at a news conference on Friday.

Helton cited the problems with the Medicaid budget as among the reasons for his decision to step down. Gov. Patton announced a special review of the \$3 billion health care program.

"He joined us more than a year ago to take on one of the most difficult and demanding jobs in state government but I must respect his desire to return to private life," Gov. Patton said. "In the relative short time he served, Secretary Helton did a superb job and I want to thank him for his service to our administration and the people of Kentucky."

Deputy Secretary Marcia Morgan will be appointed Interim Secretary.

Helton said he had confidence in CHS employees and appreciated their hard work.

"You are among the best in state government," Helton said.

Helton expressed confidence in the CHS staff and the steering committee the governor named to oversee a review of Medicaid.

"This is a time to pull together, not pull apart," Helton said.



Secretary Helton

Gov. Patton also announced the appointment of Kathy Kustra as a Special Advisor to the Governor for Medicaid to coordinate an Executive Steering Committee on Medicaid.

"Ms. Kustra has an excellent background in the area of Medicaid as a former Director of the Illinois Department of

Public Aid, the equivalent of our former Cabinet for Human Resources, and I look forward to working with her on this difficult and challenging issue," the governor added.

Besides Kustra, members of the Executive Steering Committee for Medicaid will include; Budget Director Jim Ramsey, Secretary of the Cabinet Crit Luallen, Chief of Staff Skipper Martin, Interim Health Services Secretary Marcia Morgan, Secretary Viola Miller of the Cabinet for Families and Children and outside consultants with national expertise.

The governor charged the Executive Committee to implement short-term strategies to address the current year budget problems. They will also review and evaluate the entire Medicaid program and how we compare to other states, and work on long-term solutions with continuing input from provider groups and advocates.



## March Is Severe Weather Month; Make Your Plans


March is severe weather month. Although severe weather can occur during any month, the spring and summer is when Kentucky weather is most volatile. As with other emergencies, planning your response to weather should take place well in advance of any

anticipated need.

Where will you go when the skies turn dark, the wind blow and the clouds twist? Now is the time to plan your way to a tornado safe area. Posted in various locations throughout the Human Resources complex are the locations of the



tornado safe areas.

More severe weather information will be provided during this month. 

## Scholarships Available For Therapists

The Division of Mental Health in the Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation Services and the Integrated Resources in Schools (IRIS) Initiatives are offering scholarships for mental health therapists interested in attending the Infancy and Early Childhood Training Course.

Dr. Stanley Greenspan and Serena Wieder, Ph.D. will teach the class in Arlington, Va., April 27-30. Scholarship funding is from federal block grant money for children's training initiatives and IRIS Initiative funds.

Scholarships are being offered to help mental health centers build a stronger mental health service capacity for infants, toddlers, preschool children and their families.

Individuals receiving this scholarship must agree to help build this service capacity in their region. They are expected to attend a follow-up planning meeting in May and to spend at least two additional days during the next year in activity such as:

- participation in a supervisory

group, which could lead to national certification by the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders;

- serving as a trainer at Kentucky's Early Childhood Institute in August, at an IMPACT Seasonal Meeting or at the Mental Health Institute;

- participation as a pilot site providing assistance to Healthy Start consultants working with child care centers in the area as part of the governor's "Kids Now" initiative; or
- other follow-up activity at the regional level.

These and other opportunities will be a subject of the May planning meeting. Some state-level support will be available for selected follow-up activities.

Children's services directors are asked to recommend individuals to attend the training course. Regions may apply for one or two scholarships. Contact Jim Call at 502/564-7610 for further information.

## Rape Crisis Center Regulation Approved

The Administrative Regulation Review Committee recently unanimously approved an administrative regulation submitted by the Department for Mental Health-Mental Retardation concerning regional rape crisis centers. The new regulation incorporates service standards for the operation of the centers and clarifies staff credentialing and training requirements.

Committee members complimented the way MH/MR staff worked with providers in developing the regulation.

## Hazel Porter Services

Hazel Porter, 84, who formerly worked at the lobby desk in the CHR Building, died last Thursday. Services were Monday, March 5, at Rogers Funeral Home in Frankfort.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the National Stroke Association, 9707 East Easter Lane, Englewood, Colo., 80112.